

# EAST AFRICAN UNIVERSITY RWANDA(EAUR)

## EAST AFRICAN UNIVERSITY LEADING CHANGE IN RWANDA

East African University Rwanda (EAUR), a pioneer private university in rural Nyagatare district of Rwanda's Eastern Province, has taken up its position as a formidable change-agent in Rwanda. The university is championing provision of quality affordable education founded on character, to the qualified youth, as a means of nurturing persons of virtue and integrity for improved self-sustenance; and contribution towards the country's national development plan.

Established in 2014, EAUR under the BDK Universities Network was accredited as a full-fledged university in Rwanda by the Extraordinary Cabinet meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2015. Ever since, the university has exercised its mandate of offering quality affordable education to enhance the development of human resource for Nyagatare district in particular, and the entire country of Rwanda in general. The university has designed relevant programs and put in place resources and facilities to support the provision of quality education. At its main campus in Nyagatare Town, the university has a modern library with basic literature and e-library resources to facilitate literacy and research activities by both staff and students. It also has two computer laboratories with a total of 100 computers to support training in new technologies of information and communication for students and the public. Currently, the university offers academic programs through its three schools of Business Studies, Film, Mass Communication, and Industrial Arts and Design; and Education at the undergraduate and diploma levels.

### "East African University Rwanda role in the community development"

In addition, the university is also playing a leading role in community development through its outreach programs. In April 2016, EAUR contributed towards the improvement of the plight and welfare of the poor of the poorest survivors of the past Genocide in Rwanda, through construction of 2 houses in Mirama II in Nyagatare district, for such survivors. Other outreach activities include organization of the 22 commemoration of the Genocide in Rwanda at the district level in partnership with the University of Rwanda, hosting a public talk for students and the community on "NdiUmunyarwanda" in May 2016, and hosting two Honorable Parliamentarians who gave a talk on the prevention of Genocide during the 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, which was well attended by staff, students, and the members of the community. Further engagement with the community may be seen through the recent participation of the university in the 2016 Inter-University Debate Competition organized by the Rwanda Governance Board (RGB), which was held in Kigali from November 21-25, 2016 where EAUR came out in the 2<sup>nd</sup> position and also won a prize of Frw 900,000 as a result of its outstanding and exemplary performance.



Nyagatare main campus

The university started with a relatively small population of 157, of which 94 were male, and 63 female. Currently after two years, the university's enrollment has shot up to 664 with 376 male, and 288 female. Comparing the initial enrollment of 157 in 2015 and the current enrollment of 664 in 2017, one finds that the enrollment over the last 2 years has gone up by 76%, which is excellent. The gradual growth and development of EAUR is anchored on the high quality of its programs and the low fees charged, compared to those of similar institutions country-wide.

The growth rate of 76% is evidence of how this university is claiming its prominence as a relevant actor in higher education provision in Rwanda, in such a short time. Due to the leading role the university is playing, the Rwandan Government under its FARG program, chose to sponsor 124 students at this university, meaning that a choice for EAUR is indeed a choice in the right direction.



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